

# The Committee of 100 on the Federal City



www.committeef100.net

**Founded 1923**

July 18, 2016

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Nancy J. MacWood

Mrs. Anne P. Copenhaver  
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Stephen Hansen

The Garden Club of America  
14 East 60<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10022-1006

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Dear Mrs. Copenhaver:

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We are grateful for The Garden Club of America's interest in the historic Enid A. Haupt Garden and its preservation. Your featuring the proposed destruction of the garden on The Garden Club's website home page was welcome news to the several organizations nationally and locally that are also opposing the demolition of the garden.

As you may know, a number of those organizations have been coordinating and cooperating for over a year in consultation meetings with the Smithsonian on its future plans for the Quadrangle that is located south of the Smithsonian Castle and comprises the Haupt Garden, the Renwick Gates and the three pavilion entrances to the underground Sackler Gallery, the National Museum of African Art and the S. Dillon Ripley Center, all of which the Smithsonian proposes to demolish. These organizations include the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the President's Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the Committee of 100 on the Federal City (committeef100.net), and the DC Preservation League (dcpreservation.org). Sections 106 and 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the National Environment Policy Act require that the Smithsonian hold these meetings.

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We urge that The Garden Club to become an active participant in these and the future meetings that are required before the Smithsonian's plans can be finalized. These public meetings, at which testimony is invited, will be held at future dates by the DC Historic Preservation Review Board, the United States Commission of Fine Arts, and the National Capital Planning Commission, which agencies will provide comments and a final decision of whether the Smithsonian's destruction of the Haupt Garden and other features of the Quadrangle will be approved, modified or disapproved.

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Mrs. Anne P. Copenhaver

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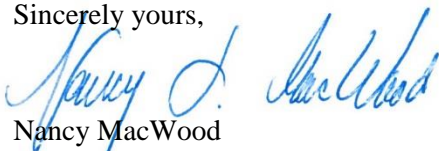
We note that Secretary Skorton of the Smithsonian in his July 6 letter to you does not deny that the Haupt Garden is proposed essentially for demolition, to be replaced by some unknown future design. The rationale used is that the ceilings/roofs of the underground galleries are leaking and must be repaired. We have repeatedly asked the Smithsonian to provide plans and studies of exactly what is required to repair these roofs, whether the repairs can be made without total destruction of the Haupt Garden and, if excavation is required, which parts of the garden will be involved and why the garden elements cannot be replaced or replicated. We have received no answer to our inquiries. The Secretary does not mention the proposed destruction of the Renwick Gates and pavilions that are an integral part of the garden, nor does he mention the Smithsonian's possible destruction of the Mary Livingston Garden and the Katherine Dulin Folger Rose Garden which are not part of the Quadrangle but are adjacent to it and equally treasured by many public visitors.

Recently the National Park Service issued a proposal to amend and enlarge the National Mall Historic District to include the Haupt Garden and its related features, which will be designated as "contributing" elements to the historic district and will therefore be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. While this action will not protect the garden from demolition, it will officially recognize the historic importance of the garden in its present configuration.

We encourage The Garden Club of America to designate a contact person with whom we might keep regularly informed about meetings, consultations and other ongoing developments and with whom we might coordinate the efforts of the several organizations opposed to the destruction of the gardens and related features. . We also hope that a Garden Club representative can be designated to attend the hearings and voice The Garden Club's concerns as events unfold.

If you or any of your staff would like to discuss any matters raised in this letter, you may contact me directly at [nmacwood@gmail.com](mailto:nmacwood@gmail.com) or (202) 966-5333.

Sincerely yours,



Nancy MacWood  
Chairperson

cc: Dede Petri, Incoming President of The Garden Club of America  
Robert Niewig, National Trust for Historic Preservation ([rniewig@savingplaces.org](mailto:rniewig@savingplaces.org))  
Bryan Lusher, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation ([blusher@achp.gov](mailto:blusher@achp.gov))  
Thomas Luebke, US Commission of Fine Arts ([tluebke@cfa.gov](mailto:tluebke@cfa.gov))  
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